

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01

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R 051403Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1349

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 18840

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, CB

SUBJECT: KENG VANNSAK RETURN TO CAMBODIA

1. KENG VANNSAK, DEPUTY KHMER DELEGATE TO UNESCO, TOLD EMBOFF HE HAD RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM PRESIDENT LON NOL TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH FOR ABOUT A MONTH BEGINNING THE END OF AUGUST. HE ASKED US TO INFORM EMBASSY PHNOM PENH OF HIS TRAVEL PLANS AND TO REQUEST APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR DEAN. HE WILL CONTACT EMBASSY DIRECTLY WHEN HE ARRIVES IN PHNOM PENH.

2. KENG VANNSAK SAID THAT UNLESS REQUESTED TO REMAIN FOR "POLITICAL" TASK IN PHNOM PENH, HE WILL RETURN TO PARIS IN TIME TO HELP DEFEND GKR'S CREDENTIALS IN UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER. SINCE UNESCO VOTE WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE UNGA VOTE, HE THOUGHT GKR SHOULD ATTACH MORE IMPORTANCE TO THIS ASPECT OF STRUGGLE WITH GRUNK. HE THOUGH GDR MAINTENANCE OF THE INACTIVE AND INEFFECTUAL ESSARO AS UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE AND GKR REFUSAL TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ENLIST SUPPORT OF OTHER DELEGATIONS RISKED GIVING A UNESCO VICTORY TO THE GRUNK. SUCH VICTORY WOULD IN TURN GIVE ADDED MOMENTUM TO GRUNK IN SUBSEQUENT UNGA FIGHT.

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3. KENG VANNSAK SAID THAT AFTER LON NON HAD REJECTED LON NOL'S PROPOSAL THAT HE BECOME CHARGE IN PARIS, THEY DISCUSSED THE OTHER KHMER WHO MIGHT POSSIBLE BE NAMED. THEY CONCLUDED THAT ONLY KENG VANNSAK HIMSELF WOULD BE A SUITABLE CHOICE. KENG KNEW THAT LON NON HAD SENT SUCH A PORPOSAL TO HIS BROTHER, BUT DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE REACTION HAD BEEN IN PHNOM PENH. KENG VANNSAK NOTED THAT LONG BORET'S EARLIER EFFORT TO HAVE HIM REPLACE ESSARO AT UNESCO HAD FALLEN THROUGH WHEN THE LATTER RETRACTED HIS PREVIOUS REQUEST FOR AN AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENT AND ASKED TO REMAIN IN PARIS UNTIL RETIREMENT.

4. COMMENT: KENG VANNSAK'S CONTACT WITH US APPEARS PART OF AN EFFORT TO FIND SOON A POSITION OF GREATER IMPORTANCE AND ACTIVITY IN PARIS OR PHNOM PENH.
STONE

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